

Peace & Love

Peace Makers

Matthew 5(9)^{NASB 9} “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Peacemaking doesn't mean passivity.

It is:

- the act of interrupting injustice without mirroring injustice.
- the act of disarming evil without destroying the evildoer.
- the act of finding a third way that is neither fight or flight but the arduous pursuit of reconciliation & justice.
- It is about a revolution of love that is big enough to liberate both the oppressed & the oppressors.

Love your enemies

If faith is the currency in the Kingdom of God then Love is the purpose in the Kingdom of God.

Faith, hope & Love with love being the greatest.

I Corinthians 13(13) But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

First Love God with everything and second Love your neighbor as yourself.

You can't love without forgiving.

Matthew 5(43-45)

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ “But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

We must investigate how do we love our enemies & why should we love our enemies.

I

We begin loving our enemies by doing the following three things.

First - We need to look at yourself first.

- Yet there might be somethings you have done deep down in the past that hurt someone. We might have overlooked something in our past behavior. We may have judged our brother's eye speck while not being aware of the log in our own eye.

Second - We need to discover the element of good in your enemy.

- They may be struggling with doing right themselves. We tend to judge others by their actions & judge our own selves by our intent (I didn't mean any harm, I was planning to do something good). They themselves may be going through the same thought process.

Third - When the Opportunity comes to defeat your enemy, that is the time that you must not do. it.

- A. There will come a time when the person that did you wrong the most, gossiped about you, lied about you the most will be given into your influence. It might come as a Job reference etc. When we rise in our level of love & power we seek only to defeat evil systems, individuals who caught up in that system we love, but seek to defeat the system.

God did not call us to **like** our enemies. We are called to love everybody with agape love.

You come to the point that you love the individual that does the evil deeds while hating the deeds that the person does.

II

Why should we love our enemies?

First - Hate for hate only intensifies the existence of hate & evil in the universe.

- A. If I hit you & you hit me & then I hit you back & then you hit me back, this behavior just keeps going on & on with a strong tendency to escalate. (i.e. Gang warfare).
(On a two-lane road with bright lights on, someone must have sense enough to deem their lights).
- B. The strong person must rise up & cut off this chain of hate & evil by employing Godly love.

Second - Hate **distorts** the personality of the hater. We usually think of what hate does to the individuals or groups hated. But tragically hate corrodes the hater.

- A. When you hate, you will begin to do irrational things. When you hate, you can't see straight, you can't walk straight. When you hate, you will call the beautiful ugly & the ugly beautiful.
- B. Never hate! Hating becomes a cancer that gnaws away at your vital center of life.

Third - Love has within it a **redemptive** power.

Love has the power that can eventually transform individuals.

That is why Jesus commands us to love your enemies. If you hate you have no way to redeem your enemies.

1 Corinthians 13(4-7)

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, ⁵ does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, ⁶ does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Rhema Christian Center

"Skip Jones"

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